

# ***EDUCATING FORT BEND***

It is my pleasure to share this third quarter highlights report showcasing the educational activities of both Texas Cooperative Extension and the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A & M University here in Fort Bend County.

We are in a unique position in that Extension programs' address issues that have been reported as important and of concern to our citizens in increasing quality of life. Our programs which are of interest to both urban and rural audiences include general agriculture, home horticulture, nutrition, health & wellness, financial management, natural resource conservation and more. We target both adults and youth. The youth programs include 4-H, Jr. Master Gardeners and curriculum enrichment through schools, after-school programs and special events.

As you read through this edition, please note the name of the agent reporting the highlight piece and feel free to contact us for more information and, perhaps to assist you and/or your organization with your specific educational needs.



County Extension Director



## **Fort Bend County Commissioners' Court**

County Judge Robert "Bob" Hebert

- Precinct 1 Commissioner Richard Morrison
- Precinct 2 Commissioner Grady Prestage
- Precinct 3 Commissioner Andy Meyers
- Precinct 4 Commissioner James Patterson

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### **TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE - FORT BEND COUNTY FACULTY**

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|                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Agriculture/Natural Resources     | CEA Joe W. Mask          |
| Horticulture/Master Gardeners     | CEA Shari E. Koch, Ph.D. |
| CEP-Agriculture/Natural Resources | EA Major Stevenson, Jr.  |
| 4-H/Youth Development             | CEA Dwight D. Callis     |
| 4-H/Urban Youth Development       | CEA Shelley R. Pappas    |
| CEP-4-H/Youth Development         | EA Timothy K. Sandles    |

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|---|---|
| Family & Consumer Sciences                    | CEA Sandra K. Fry   |
| CEP-Expanded Food Nutrition Extension Program | PA Krystal J. Wilcox  |
| Vacant  | EA CEP-Family & Consumer Sciences                           |
| Vacant  | CEA/Family & Consumer Sciences/<br>Better Living for Texans |

The 2009 **AG'tivity Barn Float** and its riders invited the 90,000+ parade goers to 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual FBC Fair and Rodeo and introduced them a sampling of activities to be featured in the **AG'tivity Barn**. The exhibit, in the Big "Barn" Tent was developed to exhibit the importance of agriculture in our daily lives and the abundance of agriculture in Fort Bend County. This year's float was designed and decorated by the AG'tivity Barn's fair committee members, with special appreciation to Mark Wendt Farms, Shoppa's Farm Supply, and Needville Cotton Gin for their contributions. The annual Fair Coloring Page Contest unofficially ushers in many of the fair's activities and is



sponsored by Fort Bend County Fair Association and Texas Cooperative Extension of Fort Bend County. What a surprise it was to learn that one young man was a repeat winner and he looks forward to another year to compete in the coloring contest. In the kindergarten competition, sisters can claim bragging rights for winning the grand prize rosette in consecutive years. Grand champion and reserve champion winners received a t-shirt with their coloring page screened on it to wear on the float and keep as a memento of the event. The winning artwork was posted in the AG'tivity Barn for all fair goers to enjoy and was representative of Lamar CISD, Fort Bend ISD and Needville School District. The youth were also recognized prior to the Commercial Heifer Auction on Saturday, September 29. Contact Joe Mask, CEA-ANR.

**Missouri City Summer Camp - "ATaking Kidz Places"** Missouri City, Texas, hosted a summer camp with a different theme for each week. The theme for the week of July 13<sup>th</sup> was CSI. The youth enjoyed a presentation about identifying animals based on their tracks. A total of thirty-seven (37) youth attended the session to hear about animals in this area and how to identify these animals based on the tracks they leave. On July 21, the Master Gardeners also presented a workshop to the Missouri City summer camp. The theme for this week was around the world. A presentation was given on fruits and vegetables and their origins in order to show the thirty-six (36) youth that food does not come from HEB, but originated from around the world. Contact Joe Mask, CEA-ANR, Dr. Sharon Grahmann, CEA-H

Forty-one (41) participants attended the **Row Crops Tour** held on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Participants gathered at the Education Center of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service of Fort Bend County prior to touring the demonstration plots at the Stasney Farm in Kendleton, Texas. The educational sessions were presented by Melissa Barton of Texas Department of Agriculture, Dr. Roy Parker and Dr. Dan Fromme for Texas AgriLife Extension Service earning the participants 3 CEUs for their pesticide license. During the field portion of the tour, Drs. Parker and Fromme discussed more topics about corn and cotton. Seed reps Victor Eder of Syngenta Seeds, Tadd Westermann of Terrel Seed and Caleb Wendt of Horbeck Seed talked also spoke on their specific corn varieties. The program concluded with a meal served at the Extension Education Center.

Thirty-seven (37) individuals participated in the **Elected Officials Ag Tour** of Fort Bend County held June 30<sup>th</sup>. City, county, state, and federal elected officials who represent Fort Bend County were invited and did attend. Guests met at the Extension office and boarded a bus for the tour that included visits to Enchanted Gardens, Pavlok Farmers Market, Moore Ranch, Wendt's Rice Farm and Stasney's Farm. Participants returned to the Extension office for an evening meal and an introduction to the various Agriculture and Horticulture committees and task forces. Contact Joe Mask, CEA-ANR, Dr. Sharon Gramann, CEA-H

The first ever **Earth-Kind Kids Kamp** was held June 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> at Fort Bend AgriLife Extension with 30 youth, ages 8-11, attending. This fun-packed camp hosted by the Fort Bend Master Gardeners. Earth-Kind Kids Kamp focused on Chapter 3 of the Junior Master Gardener book - *Ecology & Environmental Horticulture*. The kampers participated in many activities from the JMG program focusing wildlife rehabilitation, insects, recycling, and reptile identification. The kampers learned valuable information about conserving our environment and the animals in it. The highlight of the week was a field trip to the Fort Bend Recycling Center. The kampers learned the importance of recycling as well as what types of materials are recyclable. The week ended with an awards ceremony where each kamper received a certificate and a Junior Master Gardener Golden Ray pin for environmental conservation. Contact Dr. Sharon

**Kids-R-Kids Program** presented programs at the **Kids-R-Kids Daycare Center** each Monday morning located in Stafford. The mornings were spent with the younger children (4-5 years), and the afternoons with the older kids (7-12 years). We discussed the food pyramid, the importance of each food group, and why we should have a healthy diet. Afterwards, the children sometimes assisted me in preparing a healthy snack. We then did some type of fun and physical activity either inside or outside of the facility. We concluded the program by reviewing what we discussed and say our goodbyes until the next week. Contact Krystal Wilcox, CE-EFNEP-PP



**4-H Sew and So Camp** was conducted to teach youth to sew. Our goal was 20 girls each week - we ended up with a total of 65 and a waiting list in Fort Bend County of 15 additional children ages 9 to 18. Each week-long camp's activities included the construction a pair of pants or skirt, a pillowcase for personal use, a pillowcase as a community-service project to given to the American Sewing Guild-Houston Chapter for donation to the local Ronald McDonald House, a cell phone case, and the biggest hit of the week - learning to knit. At the end of each camp, a fashion show and display of items was held in each county. Approx-imately 40 parents, siblings, other relatives and friends attended. Following each camp, several e-mails were received expressing the continued interest their children developed. Fort Bend County's camps were held at the Extension office located on Band Road in Rosenberg.

**The 2nd Annual Fashions from the Cotton Patch Exposition and Luncheon**

was held on August 9<sup>th</sup> with 31 garments, accessories and/or home decor items entered for judging. This year, in addition to the usual agenda, guests were invited to observe an Alpha Zeta-Epsilon Sigma Phi Award presentation for their partnership with Extension. Irene Hatfield of Southern Lady Quilt Shop in Angleton, Texas, presented a brief presentation of the quilting machine and displayed some of her creative items. Fifty-seven people attended and enjoyed the show and lunch. Grand prizes for professional, adult and youth divisions were provided by sewing businesses in the greater Houston area. Fashions from the Cotton Patch is a multi-county effort presented by Family and Consumer Sciences and Agriculture and partnership with the Amer. Sewing Guild-Houston Chapter. Contact Sandra Fry, CEA-FCS.



**Fort Bend County 4-H AGtivity Day Camp** 130 youth and teen leaders participated in a one-day Day Camp held at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg, Texas. This year the Day Camp focused on Agriculture in our every day lives. The participating youth experienced a mock horse show presented by Jaime Voskamp with Blue Ribbon 4-H. Southwestern Mobile Dairy demonstrated the process of milking cows and the Fort Bend Master Gardeners assisted participants in making their own decorated chia pet as a take-home horticulture project. The afternoon sessions consisted of Sugar Land 4-H Club's Nutrition Education, Needville 4-H's Tandy Leather bracelet-making project, and Dwight Callis' Beef Cattle session. Door prizes were distributed before participants were dismissed. All participants received a goody bag with basic 4-H information and ag-related materials for youth. HEB donated \$200 for lunch, snacks and supplies for the 4-H AG'tivity Day Camp. Contact Dwight Callis, CEA-4-H/Y and Shelley Pappas, CEA-UYD

**4-H Awards Banquet** - 150 Fort Bend County 4H members and adult leaders attended the Awards Banquet. The Awards Banquet highlighted 4H achievements during the 2008-2009 4H year. Members and adult leaders were recognized and honored for their accomplishments at the county, district, state and national levels. In addition to member and adult leader recognition, a special Hall of Fame award was presented to community partner HEB for their support in Ag-Literacy and 4H Day Camp activities in Fort Bend County. Contact Dwight Callis, CEA-4H/Y

**Job & Financial Awareness Fair** - held Aug. 13th at the 5th St. Community Center in Stafford to educate the community about both, career opportunities and financial responsibility. Participants received information on early college admissions, financial aid, and new career trends as well as information on financial and debt management. Prec. 1 Commissioner Grady Prestage and Workforce Solutions were on hand to assist the 57 participants in attendance. Contact Timothy Sandles, EA-CEP-4-H/YD

**Fort Bend 4-H Club Manager and Officer Training** - 25 adults and 15 youth participated in the Fort Bend 4-H Club Manager and Officer Training on Saturday, July 18, at the Fort Bend County Extension Office from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. The Club Manager/Leader Training covered cash management, risk management, management tools & tips, parliamentary procedures, District updates, and 4-H contest & event planning. The Officer Training consisted of sessions on rules & responsibilities of club officers, parliamentary procedure, conducting meetings, upcoming events, etc. 4-H Club Management materials were disseminated to all participants. Lunch was provided. Contact Dwight Callis, CEA-4-H/Y

**CEP Explores at Kids R Kids in Stafford, Texas** On July 6, 54 youth participated in educational programming at the Kids >R= Kids childcare facility in Stafford, TX. The kids were taught about the importance of a nutritious diet by covering the My Food Pyramid, through interactive learning while teaching them how the various food groups work together to build a healthy diet. Students were also taught how to make their own delicious smoothies out of orange juice concentrate and skim milk. Yummy! After the kids digested their nutritional teachings, we aided their learning experience with a cooperative skill builder. This activity focused on cooperative teamwork in a competitive situation as well as helped illustrated that physical activity can be tons of fun. The kids enjoyed the event tremendously and afterwards were filled with many questions. The July 20 class was Exploring MyPyramid. The objective for the day at Kids R Kids was to understand that healthy food and physical activity are important for our overall health. The students then identified the five food groups in MyPyramid and named at least two foods in each food group. After a brief discussion about the foods the students enjoyed eating, they then discussed fun and invigorating ways to incorporate physical fitness into our everyday lives (i.e. dancing, skating, running, and swimming). Contact Timothy Sandles, EA-CEP-4H/YD, Krystal Wilcox, CEP-EFNEP

**Dulles Elementary Career Day** - Two-hundred thirty-nine kindergarten, first and second grades students attended the Dulles Elementary Career Day on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Students attended sessions representing specific career opportunities, as well as a general session on career preparation. Topics presented to students included: how to be successful in school, the importance of planning, and the benefits of getting involved in youth organizations while in elementary school, middle school, and continuing in high school. Contact Shelley Pappas, CEA-UYD

**County Record Book Judging Contest** - Occurred on June 8th with 51 record books entered. Record book entries represented 4-H members at the Junior, Intermediate and Senior level and included 12 categories such as: Beef, Poultry, Clothing & Textiles, Entomology, and Veterinary Science. The goals and objectives for 4-H members keeping their record books are to document their 4-H learning experiences, teach youth to set goals and monitor progress toward those goals, gain understanding of their 4-H learning experiences. Record books also provide for awards and recognition within a project area, document the value of 4H participation and monitor the growth and development of 4-H members. These are examples of the reasons 4-H members are encouraged to keep record books on the projects they are working on throughout the 4H year. Of the 51 record books entered, 26 advanced to the District 9 contest which we be held in Harris County on July 8<sup>th</sup>. From there, senior record books placing high enough will advance to the state level. Contact Dwight Callis, CEA-4H/Y

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regards to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, Acts of Congress of May 8, 1914, as amended, and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, Edward G. Smith, Director, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, The Texas A&M System.